

TARRANT COUNTY INFORMATION

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There are four counties (Denton, Parker, Tarrant and Wise) that fall within the city limits of Fort Worth. Tarrant County covers the largest land mass and this chapter is devoted to it. If you need information on Denton, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties, contact information is below:

County	Phone	Web Site
Denton	(972) 434-8843	www.dentoncounty.com
Parker	(817) 594-7461	www.co.parker.tx.us
Tarrant	(817) 884-1111	www.tarrantcounty.com
Wise	(940) 627-3351	www.co.wise.tx.us

☐ Overview of County Services

What services are handled by the county?

Tarrant County provides numerous services to residents, including:

Child support collection and enforcement
Community development
Community Supervision Unit
Domestic relations
Elections
Emergency management
Family Court Services
Jail
John Peter Smith Hospital
Jury services
Juvenile services
Marriage licenses
Passports information
Public health
Road projects
Tarrant County Workforce Network
Tax collection
Veteran services
Vehicle registration
Volunteer services

County services that logically complement city services are described briefly in this guide. All county services are described in detail on their Web site: www.tarrantcounty.com.

☐ Tarrant County Commissioner's Court

What is the Commissioner's Court?

Despite the name, the Commissioner's Court is not a judicial court but is the general governing body of Tarrant County. The court is made up of four County Commissioners, each elected from one of the county's four precincts, and the county judge, who is elected county wide and presides over the full court. Each holds a staggered four-year term. The County Clerk's Office provides support services for the Commissioner's Court.

What are the Commissioner's Court's major duties?

The four County Commissioners have both county wide and precinct responsibilities. The major duties of the Commissioner's Court are to:

- Set the tax rate and adopt the county budget
- Appoint county officials and hire personnel

Tarrant County Judge and Commissioners

NOTE: The Judge's office is in the downtown courthouse. All commissioners have at least one neighborhood office, as well as an office at the downtown courthouse.

County Judge

B. Glen Whitley
(817) 884-1441
Tarrant County Courthouse
Administration Building
100 E. Weatherford St.
Fort Worth, TX 76196

Commissioner – Precinct 1

Roy C. Brooks
Southwest Sub-Courthouse
6551 Granbury Road
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 370-4500
&
Charles F. Griffin Sub-Courthouse
3212 Miller Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76119
(817) 531-5600

Commissioner – Precinct 2

Marti VanRavenswaay
Southeast Sub-Courthouse
724 E. Border St.
Arlington, TX 76010
(817) 548-3900
&
Mansfield Sub-Courthouse
1100 East Broad Street, Suite 103
Mansfield, TX 76063
(817) 473-5310

Commissioner – Precinct 3

Gary Fickes
Northeast Sub-Courthouse
645 Grapevine Highway
Hurst, TX 76054
(817) 581-3600
&
Southlake Sub-Courthouse
Southlake Town Hall
1400 Main St.
Southlake, TX 76092
(817) 481-8234

Commissioner – Precinct 4

J. D. Johnson
Northwest Sub-Courthouse
6713 Telephone Road
Lake Worth, TX 76135
(817) 238-4400

A map of precincts is available online at www.tarrantcounty.com/ecommissioner/site/default.asp

- Fill elected positions and appoint vacancies
- Establish voting precincts, appoint precinct judges and call county bond elections
- Assign contracts and authorize payment of all county bills
- Build and maintain county roads and bridges
- Build, maintain and improve county facilities, including jails
- Provide for hospitals, public welfare and veterans assistance
- Manage all county facilities
- Manage county data and archival services

Commissioners are responsive to the specific needs of people living in their areas of the county. In Tarrant County, each member of the Commissioner's Court serves as a liaison to a particular board or agency of the county, such as the Sheriff's Office, Housing Finance Corporation, or Hospital District.

How do I find out who my commissioner is?

Identify your commissioner by calling (817) 884-1111 or by visiting www.tarrantcounty.com.

May I speak before the Commissioner's Court?

Yes. The Commissioner's Court is an open forum; you may speak on any topic. To speak before the court, fill out an "Audience Participation Form" before the court goes into session. Forms are located in front of the Commissioner's Courtroom, 101 E. Weatherford St., on the 5th floor. Return your completed form to the Commissioner's Court Secretary, who will forward it to the judge.

When does the Commissioner's Court meet?

The Commissioner's Court meets at 10 a.m. every Tuesday in the Commissioner's Courtroom, located on the fifth floor of the County Administration Building, 100 E. Weatherford St. All meetings are open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend.

☐ Justices of the Peace & Constables

What are the duties of the Justice of the Peace?

Justices of the Peace are elected from eight county precincts for four-year terms. They provide the following services:

- Act as notary public
- Hold inquests
- Perform marriages
- Hear three kinds of civil lawsuits:
 - Evictions
 - Justice Civil up to \$5,000
 - Small Claims up to \$5,000

Voter Registration Locations

Tarrant County Elections Administration

(817) 831-VOTE (8683)

Voter registration applications are available at all locations listed below or by visiting

www.tarrantcounty.com/evote/site

Tarrant County Elections Administration

2700 Premier St.
Fort Worth, TX 76111

Charles F. Griffin Sub-Courthouse

3212 Miller Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76119

Mansfield Sub-Courthouse

1100 East Broad St.
Mansfield, TX 76063

Northeast Sub-Courthouse

645 Grapevine Hwy
Hurst, TX 76054

Northwest Sub-Courthouse

6713 Telephone Road
Fort Worth, TX 76135

Southeast Sub-Courthouse

724 E. Border St.
Arlington, TX 76010

Southlake Sub-Courthouse

1400 Main St.
Southlake, TX 76092

Southwest Sub-Courthouse

6551 Granbury Road
Fort Worth, TX 76133

City Hall

City Secretary's Office
1000 Throckmorton St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102

All libraries

See library locations in the Libraries section of this guide.

- Adjudicate Class C misdemeanor criminal cases such as Department of Public Safety, Sheriff's Department, Constable's Office, game wardens, Cosmetology Commission, Health and Water Departments, Plumbing Board, and school attendance offices
- Perform magistrate's duties such as adult and juvenile warnings, Class C misdemeanor arraignments, emergency protective orders, and probable cause warrants

How do I find out what my Justice of the Peace precinct is?

Visit: www.tarrantcounty.com or call (817) 884-1100. Remember that Justice of the Peace precincts are different from the Commissioners' precincts.

What are the responsibilities of the Constable?

Constables, like Justices of the Peace, are also elected from eight county precincts. While their primary duty is to serve subpoenas and other papers, they also perform patrol functions and make criminal investigations.

Voting

Who is eligible to vote?

Anyone who is:

- At least 18 years old
- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of the county where they are applying for registration
- Mentally competent
- Not a convicted felon

How do I register to vote?

A Fort Worth citizen may register to vote in local, state and national elections by completing a voter's registration card and returning it to the Tarrant County Voter Registrar's Office. You must be registered 30 days before an election in order to vote. Please allow enough time to send your registration card in prior to an election.

Where can I apply for voter registration?

See the box on Voter Registration Locations or call (817) 831-VOTE (8683).

How do I find out where to vote?

Your voter's registration card lists your voting precinct. A list of voting locations is usually printed in the newspaper prior to the election. As an alternative, you may contact the Tarrant County Voter Registrar's Office at (817) 831-VOTE (8683) or access their Web site: www.tarrantcounty.com/evote/site.

What about early voting?

Early voting is available beginning on the 15th day before the election continuing through and ending on the fourth day before the election. You may vote early by mail if you are over 65, disabled or expect to be out of the county during the early voting period and on Election Day.